

bring together to make peace with the Creator of the Universe. That's our task and our job."

On April 16, we met the cardinal of Sarajevo, His Eminence Vinko Puljic, and had a very cordial visit, followed by a second meeting with Bishop Pero Sudar, who proudly showed us the coat of arms he selected for himself at the moment in which the British-induced fight between Muslims and Catholics looked the worst: a map of a united Bosnia!

We had already, on April 13, the honor to be received by the cardinal primate of Croatia, His Eminence Franjo Kuharic, for more than one hour.

On April 17, members of the delegation had a conversation with Professor Finzi, the leader of Sarajevo's Jewish community.

We learned also with sadness that the Orthodox Metropolitan of Sarajevo, Nikolai, was no longer residing in Sarajevo, but in the area controlled by the Pale regime. We met the only religious Orthodox authority in the city, the priest Avakum Rosic, who received us and opened up for us the beautiful Orthodox church.

We stressed particularly the wish for religious reconciliation, as a basis for a reconciliation of the whole society, and overcoming the "divide and rule" from the outside. By a fortunate coincidence, on April 16, the Metropolitan Nikolai visited Sarajevo. For the first time since the beginning of the aggression, he visited Cardinal Puljic in his residence. He also met the deputy of the Rejs Ulema, Dr. Ceric. He also met Professor Finzi. A source close to the cardinal, while cautious, characterized the visit of the Metropolitan as a clear sign that "spring is coming."

In a release issued by the Schiller Institute on April 23, the delegation recommended the following measures:

1. Bosnian reconstruction must be guaranteed in the form of a crash program similar to the post-World War II Marshall Plan.

2. The political, institutional, and economic sovereignty of Bosnia must be preserved against the conditionalities of international financial institutions and geopolitical interference by powers such as the heirs of the British Empire.

3. The United States is the only country, at this point, that can push for such reconstruction and sovereignty, and should take up the project of Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, who died on April 3 in a plane crash in Dubrovnik, Croatia, with several prominent American private industrial executives, representing an investment potential of tens of billions of dollars.

4. The war criminals responsible for the aggression and genocide must be prosecuted and punished.

5. It is necessary to inform and mobilize the public in the West, especially in the United States, on the necessity to guarantee the rights of Bosnia, which put a stop to the widening of the Greater Serbian assaults and the designs of their sponsors. If Bosnia does not receive this support, we could be witnessing the beginning of World War III.

## The covert war against Arafat and peace

by Anton Chaitkin

In 1991, Margaret Thatcher and George Bush launched the new world order, a would-be world government, with the bloody Persian Gulf war against Iraq. The Syrian government joined Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in Bush's Gulf war coalition. Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat led Palestinians in steadfast opposition to the Thatcher-Bush war. Israel's Likud Party rulers Ariel Sharon and Yitzhak Shamir worked in tandem with the coalition, seeking to smash the PLO and to abort Arafat's plan for an independent Palestinian state.

But President Bush and his Likud friends fell from office. President William Clinton then bucked the British-Bush imperial policy establishment, initiating a fragile peace process in the Middle East, and in Ireland and the Balkans. Now, five years after the Gulf war, the British-run imperial axis, including the British-spawned International Monetary Fund (IMF), is engaged in a dirty covert war against the global peace process, a war that deploys bomb-throwing terrorism.

By reviewing a recent, curious public event in Washington, D.C.—a lecture by an anti-Arafat "radical," sponsored and attended by representatives of an array of Gulf war coalition partners—we will be somewhat able to see behind the scenes into the Middle East side of this imperial project.

Dr. Mustafa Barghouti spoke on April 11, at the Jerusalem Fund-Center for Policy Analysis on Palestine, located across the street from the Saudi Embassy. Barghouti, who had been a candidate in the Jan. 20 Palestinian general elections, began by describing the hardship and poverty resulting from the 28 years of Israeli occupation, and from the recent "closure" imposed by Israel on the Palestinians in the wake of the Hamas suicide bombings.

The speech gradually emerged as an anti-Arafat polemic: The Palestinian state structure is becoming all-powerful, statist influence is pervasive. The (world government) international agencies were told that Arafat would set up "accountable structures and laws," so that investors would have confidence; this did not happen. The indispensable world-government-allied non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are being politically restricted, in favor of statism. Instead of Palestinian democracy, it's Yasser Arafat versus the people—Arafat oppresses the radical Islamist group Hamas, which, unlike Arafat, is with the people.

The speaker explained that Arafat had long run the PLO as a revolutionary organization, and this mode is "unacceptable"



*The IMF is targeting Yasser Arafat because he is a nationalist, out of step with world government aims.*

now that a quasi-state structure is in place. He asserted that the U.S. State Department (presumptively, the department's residual British, Bush, and Kissinger element) is quite sympathetic to "our point of view," and said that he would be meeting the day after the lecture with State Department officials.

This reporter asked the speaker for his view of the IMF and World Bank, which are sabotaging funding for Middle East development, which they know to be essential for peace, while at the same time they mass-murder Africans, Russians, and others. Dr. Barghouti laughed, "Mass killers? I just spent two days working with them, and they didn't kill me."

### **The Bush 'democracy' apparatus**

On April 16, this reporter visited the International Republican Institute (IRI) and interviewed Lauren Ross, the woman who had arranged for Dr. Barghouti's lecture engagements in the United States.

Ross, a professional student of the Arabs and their ways, described the recent audacious interference of her institute inside the Palestinian territory. Working with "human rights" and feminist NGOs, she had staged pre-election community meetings and public opinion polling, focussing on the undemocratic nature of the peace process, the dictatorial Palestinian National Authority, and the tyrant Yasser Arafat.

Ross's IRI was organized in 1983 by the National Endowment for Democracy as an arm of then-Vice President Bush's notorious covert action apparatus, alongside such operatives as Oliver North and Elliott Abrams. The IRI's vice chairman is George Bush crony J. William Middendorf, II, previously head of the Central Intelligence Agency Transition Team for the 1980-81 Reagan-Bush administration. As chief executive of First American Bankshares, Middendorf brought in the Bank of Credit and Commerce International,

tied to some of Britain's most powerful financial houses and aristocratic families, to take over his bank and make it into a financial conduit for running the Afghan mujahideen war, and a leading element for supplying covert arms in the Iran-Contra affair.

The most important IRI board members are Henry Kissinger's partners Lawrence Eagleburger and Brent Scowcroft, along with neo-conservative Jeane Kirkpatrick and the British-directed Mont Pelerin Society leader Edwin Feulner. George Bush's son Jeb Bush is chairman of IRI's "Cuban Transition Committee," a large team working on current and future U.S.-Cuban relations.

At the 1983 birth of the nominally Republican IRI, a "Democratic" twin was also created: the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI). The two institutes are virtually indistinguishable; they work closely together on the Palestinian side to sabotage the peace process, and cooperate on other international covert action projects. NDI's board includes Iran-Contra figure Morton I. Abramowitz, a former assistant to Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, and later head of State Department Intelligence (1985-89) and President Bush's ambassador to Turkey; NDI's advisory board includes radical Likud-linked Zionist Stephen J. Solarz.

IRI and NDI are financed in their Palestine work against President Clinton's peace initiatives, by the U.S. State Department's Agency for International Development.

### **The remarkable Shikaki brothers**

Bush operative Ross worked most closely in the Palestine project with one Khalil Shikaki, and his Ford Foundation-funded Center for Palestine Research and Studies. Shikaki and the IRI jointly conducted an anti-Arafat exit poll of Palestinian voters; one question was, "[Do you] believe that free-

dom of the press and human rights should take precedence, even if this contradicts what the [Palestinian] Authority defines as the national interest?" The results of this poll were featured in the newsletter of the Washington, D.C. Jerusalem Fund-Center, distributed at Dr. Barghouti's April 11 lecture.

Dr. Barghouti's host, the chairman of the Jerusalem Fund-Center, Georgetown University Prof. Hisham Sharabi, is also the editor of the *Journal of Palestine Studies*, which Professor Sharabi jointly publishes with Kuwait University. Its Winter 1996 issue features a lead article by Ross's cooperator, Khalil Shikaki.

Now, this Khalil is the brother of the late Fathi Shikaki, the Damascus-based maximum leader of the suicide-bombing Islamic Jihad, who was assassinated last year, three days before the murder of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Khalil Shikaki himself "meets often with Israeli scholars and is eagerly pursuing joint research and polling projects with them," according to the June 13, 1995 *Boston Globe*, which also reported that "Arafat has threatened Shikaki but has taken no action. The institute is able to function partly because there is a kind of political twilight zone in the West Bank now. The Israelis have withdrawn from much of the work of occupiers, but Arafat has not yet taken over."

Arafat told the Italian newspaper *La Repubblica* on Feb. 29, "We . . . know that there is a pact between Israeli and Palestinian extremists to obstruct peace." Arafat quoted the head of Ayal, the organization to which Rabin's assassin belonged, who said "that he had met with representatives of the Jihad. And he said that it was not the first time." Arafat quoted the Israeli extremist Avishai Raviv as saying, "We and the Jihad are agreed on destroying the peace process."

Have the Shikaki brothers been part of the Bush team? Listen to Khalid Shikaki, writing against the "undemocratic" Arafat in the (Georgetown-Kuwait) *Journal of Palestine Studies* issue that was current when Dr. Barghouti spoke in Washington:

"[The] legitimacy [of Arafat's PLO] . . . began to [crack] . . . when the PLO . . . embrace[d] . . . the two-state solution. . . . [This] internal erosion of legitimacy . . . was compounded by the Gulf war of 1990-91, which not only ended the PLO's funding sources but tremendously weakened its status and legitimacy at the regional and international levels."

But, to whom did the PLO become "illegitimate" during the Gulf war? George Bush told Arab journalists on March 7, 1991, just after his massive bombing of Iraq, "We've been very disappointed in the PLO here." Bush said, "They've moved way over too far in support of Saddam Hussein. To me they've lost credibility."

In his *Journal* piece, Shikaki states that the political elite around Arafat, with their "nationalist agenda," were attacked and "decapitated by the policies of then Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, who preferred to revive a traditional rural class of landowners and elite families. . . . [Meanwhile] the Israelis, in an attempt to weaken the nationalists, contributed to politicizing the traditional Palestinian Islamists"—led by such as

Shikaki's brother.

The audience for Dr. Barghouti's April 11 lecture included IMF senior staff officer George T. Abed, two representatives from the National Endowment for Democracy, two from the U.S. State Department, one from the U.S. Information Agency, two from the IRI, various Bush-allied intelligence hands, and, representing the Anglo-Dutch monarchies, one each from the embassies of Canada and the Netherlands.

The IMF's Abed is a co-founder, with Hisham Sharabi, of the Jerusalem Fund-Center. During 1985-93, Abed worked in Geneva, and elsewhere, on behalf of the British-U.N.-IMF-NGO apparatus, as a worldwide coordinator of Palestinian social welfare operations in the Israeli-occupied territories. In a telephone interview, Abed told *EIR* how Arafat is out of step with the IMF's policy of globalization and privatization. "Arafat is of the 'old school,'" Abed complained. "He wants to nationalize everything. He wants to do everything through the state, the state apparatus overwhelms the private sector." This world government official also criticized Arafat as undemocratic.

Abed's colleague, Professor Sharabi, host to Dr. Barghouti's lecture, has recently been busy coordinating opposition to Arafat within the Palestinian community. Sharabi is co-leader of Georgetown University's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, which, while it is interlocked with the State Department, the IMF, and the intelligence community, seems to work full-time against President Clinton's peace initiatives.

The March 1996 issue of the Center's newsletter, *CCAS News*, boasts that graduates of the center conducted polling and monitoring in the Palestinian elections; that graduate Ziad Abuy Amer won a legislative seat in the elections and "expects to work with . . . other independents as 'the moderate opposition' to President Arafat's regime"; and claimed that the fact "that Hamas and other Islamist organizations refused to participate . . . suggests that an important tendency is under-represented." The "Alumni and Friends" of the CCAS is run by Michelle Durocher Dunne of the State Department Policy Planning Staff for the Middle East; her husband, Charles Dunne, also a graduate of Professor Sharabi's Georgetown Center, is currently deputy director for the Middle East at the State Department Office of Counterterrorism.

Amb. Edward Peck is one of the regulars at the Jerusalem Fund-Center, who attended Dr. Barghouti's April 11 lecture. Peck was deputy director of Vice President Bush's "Task Force on Combatting Terrorism" in 1985-86, the heyday of Iran-Contra, and served as a go-between for the Bush-British apparatus and the government of Syria. In a telephone interview, Peck quite candidly told *EIR* that "everyone above a six-year-old's intelligence in the Middle East knows that the U.S. tricked Saddam Hussein into invading Kuwait so we could kick the s---t out of him," and that the aim of the Gulf war had been to enforce the rule that "no Arab nation can be permitted to become powerful and independent." This is the rule that Peck and his Bush League friends are trying to enforce against Arafat, and against the U.S. peace initiatives.